

Use Exclusion (Acre) 472

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

PURPOSES

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of resources; e.g., road and trail closure, seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion, and wildlife exclusion and inclusion.

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to minimize human health, liability, and safety concerns; e.g., recreational access, trespass, and safety zones.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed, including areas where vegetation, soil condition, water or air quality, and wildlife or aesthetic values are in need of protection. This practice is also applicable in areas where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.

CRITERIA

Barriers may consist of both natural and artificial structures such as: rocks, logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, and electronic and sonic devices or signs. Living fences and screens, see NRCS Standard 380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and NRCS Standard 422 - Hedgerow Planting for Barriers, must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals, or people.

If vegetative barriers are used, preference should be given to native species in order to reduce the introduction of invasive plant species; provide management of existing invasive species; and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species may cause. If native plant materials are not adaptable or not proven effective for the planned use, then non-invasive species may be used. Refer to the Michigan Field

Office Technical Guide, Section I, Invasive Plant Species, for plant materials identified as invasive species.

Fence barriers will meet criteria detailed in NRCS Standard 382 - Fence.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

Barriers must comply with applicable local and state laws regarding enclosures and exclosures. Soil will be stabilized to prevent erosion and sedimentation during implementation of this practice. See NRCS Standard 342 - Critical Area Planting.

CONSIDERATIONS

When placing barriers, consideration should be given of the potential liability to the planning agency or the landuser based on safety, health, and public relations.

Barrier type and design may negatively impact wildlife movement.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. These documents will specify the requirements for installing the practice(s), the kind and amount of materials needed, and the sequence or timing of the installation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and remedial repairs will be performed as needed. Follow applicable O&M procedures outlined under Michigan NRCS Standard 382 - Fence.